

REMARKS

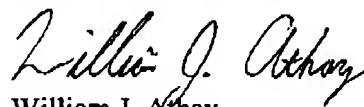
Claims 26-33 have been cancelled and claims 16-25 are now pending in the present application. Favorable reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Applicant expresses his appreciation to the Examiner for conducting a telephone interview with Applicant on January 5, 2005. In the telephone interview it was agreed that, in view of the Advisory Action dated November 19, 2004, Applicant would submit this Amendment to cancel claims 26-33 to facilitate the allowance of this application. This Amendment is not in response to any substantive rejection of the claims and does not reflect a surrender of subject matter.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present claims. In the event there remains any impediment to allowance of the application, which could be clarified in a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 5th day of January 2005.

Respectfully submitted,



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